

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 March 2004 (18.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/022907 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **E21B 21/10,**
34/14

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2003/003786

(22) International Filing Date:
1 September 2003 (01.09.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0220447.7 3 September 2002 (03.09.2002) GB

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,
SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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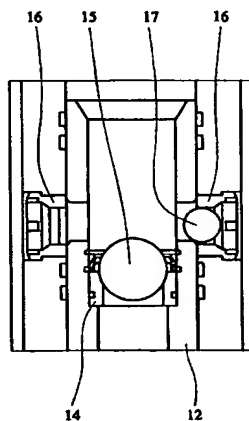
(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: BALL OPERATED BY-PASS TOOL FOR USE IN DRILLSTRING



(57) Abstract: A by-pass tool (10) for incorporation in a drillstring (11), and which is adjustable between an inactive mode in which it allows fluid flow lengthwise of the drillstring during normal drilling operation, and an active by-pass mode when drilling is to be interrupted, said tool comprising: an outer casing (20); a sleeve (12) displaceable axially within the casing (20); a valve seat (14) associated with the sleeve (12) and arranged to receive an activating ball (15), when the latter is launched from the surface and down the drillstring, said valve seat (14) being operative to displace the sleeve (12) axially and thereby initiate adjustment of the tool from the inactive mode to the active by-pass mode; and by-pass port means (16) in the casing (20) and arranged to be closed by the sleeve (12) when the tool is in its inactive mode and to be opened to communicate with the interior of the drillstring when the tool is in its active mode, said by-pass port means (16) being arranged above the valve seat (14) so as to allow a locking ball (17) (when launched from the surface after the valve seat (14) has received the activating ball (15)) to partially block the port means (16) and thereby initiate flushing-out of any drillstring fluid debris above the valve seat (14) via the port means (16).